

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle comprising:

5 a mirror housing;

a mirror accommodated in the mirror housing, angle of the mirror being adjustable relative to a vehicle body;

10 wherein the angle of the mirror in an upward/downward direction is adjusted through an actuator arranged in the mirror housing, and an angle of the mirror in a rightward/leftward direction is adjusted by a rotating movement of the mirror housing around an axis substantially extending along a vertical direction.

2. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising a housing rotating speed variable means for varying a rotating speed of the mirror housing between an instance where the mirror housing retracts to a retracting position or returns to an operating position and an instance where the mirror housing rotates for a mirror angle adjustment in the rightward/leftward direction.

3. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 2, further comprising a retraction/return switch for operating a retraction and a return of the mirror housing, 25 and a mirror angle adjustment switch for adjusting the angle of the mirror, wherein the housing rotating speed variable means

comprises:

a switch input determination circuit for determining a signal from the retraction/return switch and a signal from the mirror angle adjustment switch; and

- 5        at least either one of a motor apply voltage adjustment circuit or a motor apply current adjustment circuit, the motor apply voltage adjustment circuit adjusting a voltage value to be applied to a rotation motor for the mirror housing based on a determination signal outputted from the switch input determination circuit, and the motor apply current adjustment circuit adjusting an electric current value to be applied to the rotation motor for the mirror housing based on a determination signal outputted from the switch input determination circuit.

- 15      4. A electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 2, further comprising a mirror angle adjustment switch for adjusting the angle of the mirror, wherein the housing rotating speed variable means comprises:

- 20      a switch input time determination circuit for determining an input time of a signal from the mirror angle adjustment switch; and

- 25      at least either one of a motor apply voltage adjustment circuit or a motor apply current adjustment circuit, the motor apply voltage adjustment circuit adjusting a voltage value to be applied to a rotation motor for the mirror housing based on a determination signal outputted from the switch input time

determination circuit, and the motor apply current adjustment circuit adjusting an electric current value to be applied to the rotation motor for the mirror housing based on a determination signal outputted from the switch input time determination circuit.

5

5. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to any one of claims 1 to 4, further comprising a housing angle detection/storage means for detecting and storing an angle of the mirror housing in the rightward/leftward direction just before retracting the mirror housing, wherein when the mirror housing is returned from the retracing position to the operating position, the mirror housing retains the angle that is adjusted before the retraction.

15

6. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein a rotating angle of the mirror housing is detected by a detected member and a detecting member for detecting the detected member, the detected member being provided at either one of a stationary portion fixed to the vehicle body or the mirror housing, and the detecting member being provided at the other one of the mirror housing or the stationary portion.

25

7. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein a rotating angle of the mirror housing is detected based on a number of rotations of a rotation motor for the mirror housing.

8. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 5, wherein the mirror housing is positioned in a retraction origin position before the mirror housing is returned from the retracting position to the operating position.

9. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the mirror housing is positioned in a retraction origin position before the mirror housing is returned from the retracting position to the operating position.

10. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 8, wherein the mirror housing is positioned in the retraction origin position at a time when an ignition key is turned to an "ACC" position.

11. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 9, wherein the mirror housing is positioned in the retraction origin position at a time when an ignition key is turned to an "ACC" position.

12. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 8, wherein the mirror housing is positioned in the retraction origin position at a time when doors of the vehicle are unlocked.

13. An electrically retractable outer mirror for a vehicle according to claim 9, wherein the mirror housing is positioned in the retraction origin position at a time when doors of the vehicle  
5 are unlocked.